

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 03296 121052Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 XMB-04 /022 W

-----122116Z 051335 /44

R 120857Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6733

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS TUNIS 3296

ROME AND CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP EAIR TS

SUBJECT: TUNIS AIR FLEET PLANS

1. EMBOFFS AND EXIMBANK DELEGATION WERE INFORMED BY YOUSSEF AMMAR, FINANCIAL DIRECTOR OF TUNIS AIR, THAT COMPANY HAD SCALED DOWN ITS FLEET ACQUISITION PROGRAM FOR 5TH PLAN (1977-81). DUE TO REDUCED RATE OF TRAFFIC GROWTH IN LATE 1976, EARLY 1977 (6 PERCENT VS. 25 PERCENT IN 1975 AND EARLY 1976), TUNIS AIR PLANS TO PRUCHASE FIVE BOEING 727'S ACCORDING TO FOLLOWING SCHEDULE: TWO IN 1979, ONE IN 1980, TWO IN 1981. ORIGINAL PLANS HAD CALLED FOR TEN 727'S IN SAME PERIOD. SCALED DOWN ACQUISITION PROGRAM WAS CONFIRMED BY SENIOR MIN TRANSPORT OFFICIAL. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT TUNIS AIR WILL BUY SOME 737'S BUT TOTAL ACQUISITION OVER THE FIVE YEARS WILL HAVE THE PASSENGER EQUIVALENT OF FIVE 727'S.

2. AMMAR NOTED THAT TUNIS AIR TRAFFIC IS CONTINUING TO GROW, ALBEIT AT REDUCED RATES, DESPITE SMALL OVERALL 6 OR 7 PERCENT DECLINE IN TRAFFIC TO/FROM TUNIS THIS YEAR. HE STATES TUNIS AIR HOW HAS 47 PERCENT TOTAL TRAFFIC, OR 51 PERCENT OF SCHEDULED TRAFFIC, 35 PERCENT OF CHARTER.

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3. ON WIDE-BODY ACQUISITION, AMMAR STATED THAT TUNIS AIR HAD DEFERRED PURCHASE OF WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT UNTIL "AT LEAST 1982." MIN TRANSPORT OFFICIAL SAID FIRST WIDE-BODY WOULD BE ACQUIRED IN 1981, BUT WE TEND TO GO WITH AMMAR SCHEDULE. ACCORDING AMMAR, WIDE-BODY WOULD ONLY BE EFFICIENT ON TUNIS/ PARIS ROUTE AT PRESENT. HE STATED ADDITIONAL 727'S WOULD

SERVICE THIS ROUTE EQUALLY WELL WITH GREATER FLEXIBILITY.
KING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRLINES, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS03296
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770168-0204
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770564/aaaacdbx.tel
Line Count: 64
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Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2544761
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TUNIS AIR FLEET PLANS
TAGS: BEXP, EAIR, TS, TUNIS AIR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dc8b3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009